

education include securing an investment of \$25 million for the modernization of Northampton's high school, a \$12 million middle school expansion program, and work with the entire system's faculty and staff in implementing staff recommendations, reforming curriculum, and increasing parental involvement.

She has also shared her expertise in municipal and governmental affairs with state and national organizations. From 1995-99, she was a member of the Human Development Committee in the National League of Cities, a founding member of the Regional Education Business Alliance, Chair of the Task Force on the Future of State and Local Revenue Sharing for the Massachusetts Municipal Association, and President of the Women Elected Municipal Officials organization in 1998.

Mr. President, I am proud to regard Mary Ford as a friend, colleague and partner in maintaining Massachusetts's economic prosperity and growth. She has performed an enormous task for the City and its residents, and I join with all of Northampton in thanking her for her exemplary public service and leadership.●

#### HONORING THE 110TH FIGHTER WING OF THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the proud achievements of the 110th Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard. This group was recently awarded the prestigious United States Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for meritorious service, an award given to only three Air National Guard fighter wings. I would like to take this opportunity to share the history of success of this unit.

The 110th Fighter Wing has served America courageously around the world. Recently, the unit conducted flight operations from Aviano Air Base, Italy, in support of Operation Joint Guard over Bosnia-Herzegovina. During this period, the unit received a grade of "Outstanding"—an honor reserved for only the elite forces in the U.S. Armed Services—for an Operational Readiness Inspection. This distinction was the first ever given to a Michigan-based unit.

Mr. President, I would also like to recognize the service of Col. Ken Heaton, USAF, the unit's commander. Under Colonel Heaton's command, the 110th Fighter Wing has continued its history of excellence with these most recent awards. In the unit's 52-year history, it has been awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award four times.

I am proud to have the opportunity to share the accomplishments of the 110th Fighter Wing on the floor of the U.S. Senate. On behalf of the State of Michigan, I congratulate Colonel Heaton and his unit on their achieve-

ments, and I look forward to hearing of this unit's laurels for years to come.●

#### AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I would like to spend a few minutes discussing the Agricultural Cooperation Agreement that was signed by the United States and China in December in Seattle. Although the negotiations for this agreement were held at the same time as the bilateral WTO accession negotiations between our two countries, this agriculture agreement is a stand-alone arrangement. According to its own terms, it formally entered into effect when U.S. Trade Representative Barshesky and Chinese Trade Minister Shi signed it.

This agreement deals with three categories of agriculture products—Pacific Northwest wheat, meat, and citrus. The agreement requires that sound science be used when evaluating agricultural imports into China. Specifically, the agreement ends the decade-long prohibition that China had against importing Pacific Northwest wheat. It provides for U.S. government certification of meat packing facilities. And it eliminates unreasonable technical barriers to the export of citrus products from the United States to China.

On February 11, 52 other Senators, Democrats and Republicans alike, joined me in sending a letter to Chinese President Jiang Zemin, insisting that China needs to implement the Agricultural Cooperation Agreement immediately. We explained to President Jiang that now is the time to buy our agricultural products. Words are fine. Agreements are fine. But what matters is the result—concrete commercial purchases. I would like to put a copy of that letter, along with a list of the 53 Senators who signed it, into the RECORD.

I am very pleased to announce that a high level Chinese agriculture delegation, including government officials, along with representatives from COFCO, the China National Cereals, Oils, and Feedstuffs Import and Export Corporation, will visit my state of Montana on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. This is a critical next step in securing the implementation of the agriculture agreement.

I will join with Montana agriculture, Montana business, and Montana economic development officials in Great Falls this week to meet this important delegation, to provide them with information about the opportunities Montana presents, and to offer them high quality and competitive agricultural products and value-added food products.

I have been working for over twenty years to expand trade and open markets overseas for Montana and Amer-

ican agricultural commodities, value-added agricultural products, manufactured goods, and services. Increasing exports brings benefits to our farmers, our workers, and our communities, including, of course, in the state of Montana.

China represents a market of almost unlimited potential. I have worked hard for the last ten years to expand trading relations between the United States and China. This year, I am leading the fight to grant China Permanent Normal Trade Relations status, PNTR. The full implementation of this agricultural agreement is a vital part of this effort to bring China into the WTO and to ensure that America and Montana will take advantage of the unique opportunities in China.

I look forward to the signing of purchase agreements with China in the near future for Pacific Northwest wheat. Montana and China can help each other grow. That is what international trade is all about.

February 11, 2000.

President JIANG ZEMIN,  
*People's Republic of China,*  
*Beijing, China.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing to urge full implementation of the bilateral Agricultural Cooperation Agreement that Ambassador Barshesky and Trade Minister Shi signed in April. Both sides agreed that when they initiated the Chinese version in Seattle last December that implementation would begin immediately.

We appreciate that your citrus technical team has completed its visit to the United States. We understand that actions will now be taken to make those changes necessary for American citrus products to be sold to China.

We want to stress, however, how important it is that actual sales of wheat, meat, and citrus take place as soon as possible. This would demonstrate to everyone watching our bilateral relationship that this agreement is working. It would also provide a solid contribution to the efforts to ensure the passage of Permanent Normal Trading Relations ("PNTR") for China.

Mr. President, we are entering a new stage in the relationship between our two countries. The sale of product through the Agricultural Agreement will help immeasurably.

Yours Truly,

Max Baucus, Bob Graham, Kent Conrad, Tim Johnson, Patty Murray, Slade Gorton, Pat Roberts, Larry E. Craig, Blanche L. Lincoln, Dick Durbin, Michael B. Enzi, Tom Daschle, Trent Lott, Spencer Abraham, George V. Voinovich, Sam Brownback, Craig Thomas, Connie Mack.

Daniel Inouye, Mike Crapo, Gordon Smith, Jay Rockefeller, Joe Biden, Harry Reid, Richard Bryan, Rod Grams, Chuck Hagel, Wayne Allard, Tom Harkin, John Edwards, Rick Santorum, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Evan Bayh, Chuck Robb, Jeff Bingaman, John Ashcroft, Bob Kerrey.

Conrad Burns, Jim Bunning, Byron Dorgan, Kit Bond, Chuck Grassley, Phil Gramm, Lincoln Chafee, Barbara Boxer, Charles Schumer, Ron Wyden, Paul D. Coverdell, Herb Kohl, Dianne Feinstein, Daniel K. Akaka, Orrin Hatch, Kay Bailey Hutchison.●